

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:

a flexible material having low permeability to a lighter than air gas, the flexible material defining a chamber;

at least one structured member coupled to the flexible material such that when the chamber is filled with the gas to a known level, the apparatus is substantially neutrally buoyant under ambient conditions.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a sleeve coupled to the flexible material to retain the at least one structured member.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the structural member defines at least a portion of a shape of the chamber.
4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the sleeve is heat welded to the flexible material.
5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the sleeve and the flexible material are a same material.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of flexible strips coupled to the flexible material to retain at least one structural member adjacent to the flexible material.